



Organic Materials

More than 30 percent of California's waste stream consists of organic materials such as landscape trimmings, food scraps and other materials. This makes it one of the largest portions of the solid waste stream.

By using organic materials, California cities and counties can help meet their 50 percent diversion mandate. Purchasing and using local, quality products can help your jurisdiction receive direct economic and environmental benefits.

Good for the Bottom Line

Organic materials are cost-effective. By using compost and mulch, long-term economic benefits can be recognized. Not only can you reduce landscaping costs by controlling weeds, conserving water and reducing labor expenses, but cost savings can be attained by:

- Reducing the use of herbicides and fertilizers
- Avoiding landfill disposal costs and tipping fees

There are multiple uses for organic materials. If your jurisdiction produces a large quantity of organic materials, consider the following opportunities:

- Building landscaping
- Parks and playground areas
- Roadway landscaping
- Erosion control and storm water runoff projects
- Residential backyard composting

Good for the Community

Using organic materials creates jobs. Nearly 170 businesses in California produce compost and mulch, making it readily available throughout the State. Producers in your area are listed on the CIWMB Web site.

Good for the Environment

Organic materials help the environment. When organic materials are used they create healthier soils and more vibrant plants. This long-lasting benefit means that with consistent use, not only are you saving money – reducing the amount of fertilizers and herbicides used – but soil is being revitalized.

Success Stories

The city of Modesto operates its own composting facility, "Modesto Composting." Through the facility, the city is able to divert green material and biosolids from disposal. Since 1998, the program has enabled the city to save more than \$5 million on the cost of landfilling their organic materials.

The city has also generated revenues through the sale of compost products and since 1998 has diverted more than 360,000 tons of organic materials from disposal.



"Our city has benefited greatly from the composting facility and by using organic materials on a variety of landscaping, road and beautification projects."

— Jocelyn Reed
Solid Waste Program Manager
City of Modesto

Contact Information

To learn more about how your jurisdiction can benefit from organic materials, visit www.ciwmb.ca.gov or call (916) 341-6620.